

Message Text

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TAGS: PFOR, CVIS, SCUL, GE, US

SUBJECT: TOUR OF U.S. BY BERLINER ENSEMBLE: OPERATIONAL ASPECTS
OF VISAING

REF: (A) BERLIN 5214 (NOTAL) (B) STATE 034447 (NOTAL)

DEPARTMENT PASS VO, EUR/CE, CU

FRANKFURT FOR INS

1. GERHARD HEINEMANN, DIRECTOR OF SECTION OF GDR
ARTIST AGENCY WHICH DEALS WITH GUEST PERFORMANCES
AND BERLINER ENSEMBLE, CAME TO EMBASSY MARCH 20
WITH PASSPORTS AND VISA APPLICATIONS FOR ADVANCE TEAM
OF FIVE PERSONS SCHEDULED TO FLY TO NEW YORK NEXT WEEK
FOR PLANNING DISCUSSIONS WITH AMERICAN IMPRESSARIO, NINON T.
KARLWEISS OF 250 E. 56TH ST., NYC 10021. (VISAS EAGLE -
POST CHECK FOLLOWS SEPTTEL)

2. HEINEMANN SAID BERLINER ENSEMBLE TENTATIVELY
SCHEDULED TO PERFORM IN BROOKLYN UNDER SPONSORSHIP OF
BROOKLYN ACADEMY OF MUSIC AND AT KENNEDY CENTER IN
WASHINGTON IN LATTER HALF OF NOVEMBER. GROUP WILL
INCLUDE 140-150 PERSONS.

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3. HEINEMANN VISIT PROVIDED OPPORTUNITY FOR EMBOFFS

(WOLF AND LITTEL) TO DISCUSS RECIPROCITY ALONG LINES
OF PARA 2 OF REFTEL (B). HE PROFSESSED GREAT INTEREST
IN RECIPROCAL EXCHANGE VISIT BY AMERICAN GROUP.

4. THE VISAING OF SUCH A LARGE NUMBER IN A SINGLE
GROUP RAISES CERTAIN OPERATIONAL PROBLEMS, ESPECIALLY
SINCE MANY OF THEM MAY WELL BE INELIGIBLE UNDER
212(A)(28). WE STRONGLY URGED HEINEMANN TO DISCUSS
ENTIRE VISAING PROBLEM WITH IMPRESSARIO KARLWEISS. WE PROPOSE
TO INITIATE GROUP 212(D)(3) (A) WAIVER PROCEDURES WITH
INS FRANKFURT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AND WILL MEET WITH
HEINEMANN UPON RETURN OF ADVANCE TEAM TO WORK OUT
PROCEDURES. IN VIEW OF FACT THAT PERFORMING ARTS GROUPS FROM
EASTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES (BOLSHOI, MOISEYEV-USSR;
MAZOWSZE-POLAND; GEWANDTHAUS-GDR) HAVE BEEN PERFORMING
IN U.S. FOR YEARS, WE ASSUME A PROCEDURE FOR GROUP VISAING
AND WAIVERING HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED.

5. ALTHOUGH THERE IS NO USG SPONSORSHIP OF BERLINER
ENSEMBLE VISIT, IT IS CLEARLY IN EVERYONE'S INTEREST
FOR IT TO GO AS SMOOTHLY AS POSSIBLE, BOTH FROM THE
VISA OPERATIONAL STANDPOINT AND IN THE INTEREST OF THE
BEGINNING OF PRIVATE, CULTURAL EXCHANGE.

6. REQUEST COMMENT ON PARA 4 INCLUDING ADVICE ON
HOW SUCH LARGE GROUPS FROM OTHER EASTERN EUROPEAN
COUNTRIES TRADITIONALLY HANDLED. WE NOTE THAT OUR
CONSULAR SECTION STILL SPARSELY STAFFED, I.E., ONE
OFFICER, PART OF ONE LOCAL COOPER

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